

Sociology 463: Social Stratification *

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Course description

This course offers an exposition of structural inequality in American society from a cross-national comparative perspective. The course presents both sociological theories and empirical research. Topics to be covered include the following:

- Perspectives and Concepts in the Study of Social Stratification
- Dimensions of Inequality in the United States: Class, Gender, and Race
- Social Stratification in Human Societies: The History of Inequality
- Social Stratification Theory: Early Statements
- Modern Theories of Social Stratification
- The Upper Class
- The Corporate Class
- The Middle and Working Classes
- Poverty and the Political Economy of Welfare
- The Persistence of Ascription: Gender, Race, and Ethnic Inequalities
- Social Mobility: Class Ascription and Achievement
- The Process of Legitimization
- The World Stratification System
- Social Stratification in Asia (Japan)
- Social Stratification in Europe (Germany)
- Social Stratification in Europe (Poland)

Text

Harold R. Kerbo, *Social Stratification and Inequality: Class Conflict in Historical, Comparative, and Global Perspective*. Boston: McGraw-Hill.

Notes on the Web Site

(1) Department of Sociology/Classes/Soc463/Slomczynski

(2) Department of Sociology/Faculty/Slomczynski/Courses/Soc463

Introduction (Basic Concepts)

Chapter 01 (Definitions & Explanations)

Chapter 02 (Measures of Income Inequality, Numerical Examples)

* This material is available in alternative formats to students with disabilities. Please contact the Department of Sociology, 302 Bricker Hall, phone: 292-1175. Students with disabilities are responsible for seeking available assistance, and making their needs known to the instructor, in timely manner.

Chapter 03 (Tables and Their Interpretation)
Chapter 04 (Historical Material: Marx, Weber, Durkheim)
Chapter 05a (Functional and Conflict Theories of Social Stratification)
Chapter 05b (Basis of Class Stratification and Class Location)
Chapter 06 (The Upper Class vs. Elites)
Chapter 07 (Theories of Power)
Chapter 08 (The Middle Class & Working Class. Political Behavior)
Chapter 09 (Poverty. The Human Development Index)
Chapter 10 (Data on Gender Inequality)
Chapter 11 (Social Mobility Tables. Status Attainment Model)
Chapter 12 (How to Express Social Justice)
Chapter 13 (International Inequalities)
Chapter 14 (Data on Japan)
Chapter 15 (Data on Germany)

Requirements

Class participation (discussion of readings and exercises)
Two written exercises (1 to 2 pages each)
Mid-term exam (multiple-choice questions & open-ended questions)
Term-paper (5 to 7 pages) on the basis of approved prospectus (outline)
Final exam (multiple-choice questions & open-ended questions)

Grading

Two exercises (20%)
Mid-term exam (20%)
Term paper (30%)
Final exam (30%)

Important dates

(.) - First class
(.) - Hear Our Voices - The Poor on Poverty. Video.
(.) - Term paper prospectus (outline) due
(.) - Select exercise 1A or AB
(.) - Exercise 1 due
(.) - Mid-term exam
(.) - Guest Lecture
(.) - No class. Fieldwork for Exercise 2: Sings of Poverty Around the OSU Campus
(.) - Exercise 2 due
(.) - Term paper due
(.) - Last class. Summary
(.) - Final exam

Schedule

Week One

(.) Introduction

(.) Perspectives and Concepts in the Study of Social Stratification

Read: Ch. 1, pp. 3-17.

Week Two

(.) Dimensions of Inequality in the United States: Class, Gender, and Race

Read: Ch. 2, pp. 18-45.

(.) Hear Our Voices - The Poor on Poverty. Video

Week Three

(.) Social Stratification in Human Societies: The History of Inequality

Read: Ch. 3, pp. 46-75.

(.) Social Stratification Theory: Early Statements

Read: Ch. 4, pp. 79-112.

Week Four

(.) Modern Theories of Social Stratification (I)

Read: Ch. 5, pp. 113-141.

Select Exercise 1A or 1B:

Exercise 1A: For and Against Functional Theory of Social Stratification. Gather information from the New York Times and/or Columbus Dispatch which suggest evidence for and against the arguments about social inequality presented by Davis/Moore and other proponents of functional theory of social stratification.

Exercise 1B: For and Against Conflict Theory of Social Stratification. Gather information from the New York Times and/or Columbus Dispatch which suggest evidence for and against the arguments about social inequality presented by Dahrendorf and other proponents of conflict theory of social stratification.

(.) Modern Theories of Social Stratification (II)

Read: Ch. 5, pp. 141- 152.

Week Five

(.) The Upper Class

Read: Ch. 6, pp. 155-184.

Submit Exercise 2

(.) Mid-term Exam

Week Six

(.) The Corporate Class

Read: Ch. 7, pp. 185-215.

(.) The Middle and Working Classes

Read: Ch. 8, pp. 216-224.

Week Seven

(.) Poverty and the Political Economy of Welfare. The Persistence of Ascription: Gender, Race, and Ethnic Inequalities

Read: Ch.9 and Ch. 10, pp. 245-257 and 291-327.

(.) Social Mobility: Class Ascription and Achievement

Read: Ch. 11, pp. 331-375.

Week Eight

(.) Guest Lecture

Read: Ch. 12, pp. 376-405.

May 22. Fieldwork: Sings of Poverty Around the OSU Campus

Exercise 2: Provide some evidence of poverty around the OSU campus. Explain what you have observed during your fieldwork in terms of one of the following: (a) blaming the poor theory, (b) culture-of-poverty theory, (c) situational theory, or (d) structural (conflict) theory.

Read Ch. 9, pp. 257-276.

Week Nine

(.) The World Stratification System

Read: Ch. 13, pp. 409-444.

Week Ten

(.) Social Stratification in Japan, Germany and Poland

Read: Ch. 14 and 15, pp. 454-455, 470-476, 479-483, 493-494, 497-498, 502-503.

Term paper due

(.). Summary

Final exam